

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. Gerhard Probst, head of the Main Administration for Technical Matters of the East German State Broadcasting Committee (Staatliches Rundfunk Komitee- SRRK) and head of the East German Television Committee, announced during a discussion held in Berlin in September 1955 that he wished to purchase the following Western radio broadcast equipment:

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- a. Complete outside broadcast (O.B.) unit.
- b. Complete studio equipment
- c. Transmitter for television and sound
- d. Fifty receivers
- e. Fifteen sets of reporter equipment
- f. Camera pedestals
- g. Several television receivers with 72 cm C,R,T,
- h. 16 mm picture recording equipment with synchronous sound recording
- i. Five sound-proof and motor-driven 16 mm film cameras with zoom optic 1:5 and 5:25
- j. The most modern microphone booms
- k. A special control room.

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2. Probst amplified the above requirements as follows:

- a. Item (a) is to include three cameras and one reserve camera. The cameras are to have duplicate cables, each twice as long as the standard cable. One zoom optic and one camera pedestal of the Vinten type are also to be included.

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI	X	AEC	X	ORR	X	OSI	X
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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X". Field distribution by "#".)

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- b. In reference to item (b), he explained that the intention was to commence with a completely equipped television studio, which at a later date would be enlarged by a second studio and more equipment. He wanted, in the meantime, a schematic diagram of the studio installations showing the dimensions of the technical auxiliary rooms, which include the picture-sound-mixing room, control rooms for cameras and final control and a plan of the cables. He pointed out that, with the three cameras and reserve camera, two telecine installations with slide projectors should be included, and that either one should include two 16 mm projectors and the other two 35 mm projectors, or that each should have one of each type of projector.
- c. With reference to item (c), Probst intends the Staatliches Rundfunk-Komitee (SRFK) to install a television and sound transmitter without the knowledge of the East German Postal Authorities, because of the considerable tension existing between the SRFK and the Postal Authorities. The specifications for this transmitter are 20 kw, band III, channel 11 (about 200 mcs), carrier spacing 6.5, radio antenna diagram, complete with service and measurement control.¹ Because of differences of opinion between the SRFK and Post Office over technical points on the link between the studio and the transmitter, it is Probst's intention to order the link (distance approximately 25 kms) without the knowledge of the Post Office.
- d. The receivers in item (d) are to be installed at different points near the studio or the transmitter room and are to be put at the disposal of the people working in the studio or in the transmitter room, in their homes, or in important Government offices. Probst intends to prove by the presence of these receivers that their quality and the standard of the components is greatly superior to anything that could be produced by East German factories, and to show that it is easy to buy so many receivers from the West. He privately expressed grave doubts as to the manufacturing capacity of East German factories where television equipment is concerned.
- e. The 15 sets of equipment in item (e) are required with video frequency monitors for use in what he termed "the various studios",²
- f. In connection with item (h), Probst said that the SRFK attaches great importance to picture recording equipment for studio and O.B. units, which will enable them to keep pictures either as documents or as repeats for a later date. Such pictures, for example, could be put at the disposal of television studios in other Soviet Bloc countries where there is no land link. He expressed a preference for sound recording on magnetic tape.

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- h. The type of control room listed as item (k) is completely non-standard. Probst wants a control room placed at the end of the studio, technically speaking, the installation to be such that
- (1) the quality of the out-going and also of the transmitted pictures can be decided by several people;
 - (2) the place where a fault occurs and the kind of the fault can be determined and measured;
 - (3) the out-going line to the transmitter can be switched off from this point of the changeover to ready film, or other

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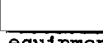
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alternative transmissions can take place from this point,
in the event of a cut-off.

1.  Comment: In the past, the SRFK used 2,000 mcs links.
2.  Comment: As Item (a) will include two similar sets of equipment, this item seems difficult to explain unless Probst has grandiose schemes in mind. The outfits are of the type used by commentators at various positions on a race course.

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